Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638 or 640) (see 13 CFR part 125); or

(2) A designated official under Part V of Executive Order 10480, August 14, 1953 (18 FR 4939, August 20, 1953) and section 708 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2158).

[48 FR 42142, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 2649, Jan. 17, 1986]

9.702 Contracting with pools.

- (a) Except as specified in this subpart, a pool shall be treated the same as any other prospective or actual contractor.
- (b) The contracting officer shall not award a contract to a pool unless the offer leading to the contract is submitted by the pool in its own name or by an individual pool member expressly stating that the offer is on behalf of the pool.
- (c) Upon receipt of an offer submitted by a group representing that it is a pool, the contracting officer shall verify its approved status with the SBA District Office Director or other approving agency and document the contract file that the verification was made.
- (d) Pools approved by the SBA under the Small Business Act are entitled to the preferences and privileges accorded to small business concerns. Approval under the Defense Production Act does not confer these preferences and privileges.
- (e) Before awarding a contract to an unincorporated pool, the contracting officer shall require each pool member participating in the contract to furnish a certified copy of a power of attorney identifying the agent authorized to sign the offer or contract on that member's behalf. The contracting officer shall attach a copy of each power of attorney to each signed copy of the contract retained by the Government.

[48 FR 42142, Setp. 19, 1983, as amended at 61 FR 67410, Dec. 20, 1996]

9.703 Contracting with individual pool members.

(a) Pool members may submit individual offers, independent of the pool. However, the contracting officer shall not consider an independent offer by a pool member if that pool member par-

ticipates in a competing offer submitted by the pool.

(b) If a pool member submits an individual offer, independent of the pool, the contracting officer shall consider the pool agreement, along with other factors, in determining whether that pool member is a responsible prospective contractor under subpart 9.1.

PART 10—MARKET RESEARCH

Sec.

10.000 Scope of part.

10.001 Policy.

10.002 Procedures.

AUTHORITY: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

Source: $60 \ FR \ 48237$, Sept. $18, \ 1995$, unless otherwise noted.

10.000 Scope of part.

This part prescribes policies and procedures for conducting market research to arrive at the most suitable approach to acquiring, distributing, and supporting supplies and services. This part implements requirements of 41 U.S.C. 253a(a)(1), 41 U.S.C 264b, and 10 U.S.C. 2377.

10.001 Policy.

- (a) Agencies shall—
- (1) Ensure that legitimate needs are identified and trade-offs evaluated to acquire items which meet those needs;

(2) Conduct market research appropriate to the circumstances—

- (i) Before developing new requirements documents for an acquisition by that agency:
- (ii) Before soliciting offers for acquisitions with an estimated value in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold; and
- (iii) Before soliciting offers for acquisitions with an estimated value less than the simplified acquisition threshold when adequate information is not available and the circumstances justify its cost; and
- (3) Use the results of market research
- (i) Determine if sources capable of satisfying the agency's requirements exist:
- (ii) Determine if commercial items or, to the extent commercial items suitable to meet the agency's needs are